

Application form – CALRE Awards 2023

Submitting assembly*

Parlamento de Canarias (The Parliament of the Canary Islands)

Contact person*

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Name of the initiative*

Jornadas Conecta Canarias-Europa (*Conecta Canary Islands – Europe Conference*)

Type of initiative*

Conferences, discussions and the exchange of opinions, concerns and proposals from the Canary Islands for enhancing cohesion, migration and asylum policies within the European Union.

Start date of the initiative

September 18, 2023

End date of the initiative

September 21, 2023

Web page of the initiative

<https://www.parcan.es/noticias/archivo.py?ANIO=2023&MES=9>

Short description of the initiative*

The Parliament of the Canary Islands organized the *Conecta Canarias-Europa Conference*, which was dedicated to the topics of cohesion policy and migration and asylum in the European Union. Its main objective was to assess the current situation regarding these issues and to propose conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the political groups that constitute the Parliament of the Canary Islands during its XI Legislature.

This event was initiated in response to an invitation from the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies of Europe (CALRE) to participate in the 'Contribution of debates in regional parliaments' initiative, which aims to gather assessments, opinions and proposals from the parliamentary chambers of different European territories to contribute to the future development of the Strategic Agenda of the European Union.

The initiative also included presentations by experts on these subjects, the participation of MEPs, members of the CoR and representatives from the European Commission, as well as testimonies from migrants and NGOs, enabling further discussions among the political groups.

This initiative sought to collect suggestions, proposals and conclusions from the Canary Islands Chamber regarding these matters for incorporation into the strategic political work of the CoR for the next political cycle of the EU and the activities leading up to the European elections, scheduled for June 2024.

Main features of the initiative*

The Conecta Canarias – Europa Conference was held in the Europa Room of the Parliament of the Canary Islands while the Chamber continued with its usual activities and included numerous activities, open to the public, among which the following stand out:

- Interventions and presentations by experts on migration such as the journalist specialized in African migration José Naranjo Noble; the representative of the General Directorate of Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission in Spain, Etienne de Perier; the MEP and president of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, Juan Fernando López Aguilar; the territorial coordinator of the Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance, Juan Carlos Lorenzo de Armas; José María Zarraluqui Guillén, regional coordinator of the Canary Islands *Cruz Roja*; José Felix Hernández López, president of the *El Buen Samaritano* Canarian Foundation; Miguel Ángel Rojas Morales, territorial director of the *Don Bosco Salesianos* Social Foundation in the Canary Islands; Ricardo Iglesias San Gil, general secretary of *Cáritas Diocesana de Canarias*; Alfonso J. Roque Marrero, provincial director of the *Nuevo Futuro* Las Palmas Association; Mame Cheikh Mbaye Seck, co-founder and president of the Canarian Reception Network and president of the Federation of African Associations in the Canary Islands; Loueila Mint El Mamy, lawyer, activist and member of *Canarias Libre* Detention Centers for Foreigners; the Minister of Social Welfare of the Government of the Canary Islands, María Candelaria Delgado Toledo; Vicente Manuel Zapata, academic director of the Tenerife Immigration Observatory and professor of Human Geography at the University of La Laguna (Tenerife), and Pedro Calero, director of the university expert course in Intelligent and Innovative Business Management and professor at the School Lanzarote Tourism University.
- Interventions by the vice-president of the Parliament of Bremen (Germany) and rapporteur of the Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) on the new pact on migration and asylum of the European Union, Antje Grotheer, and by Pedro de Faria e Castro, member of the EU Budget and Territorial Cohesion Policy Committee of the European Committee of the Regions and rapporteur of the Opinion on the Outermost Regions.
- Roundtable discussion with migrants successfully integrated into society, employed or self-employed in the Canary Islands.

- Roundtable discussion on integration models with NGOs that work with migrants in the Canary Islands.
- Conferences on entrepreneurship and innovation among the immigrant population in the Canary Islands' tourism sector; instability in the Sahel, and a perspective on migration from south of Europe's southern border.
- Debate with the parliamentary groups of the Parliament of the Canary Islands on migration and asylum in the Schengen area, with the participation of the deputies Elena Máñez Rodríguez, of the Canarian Socialist Parliamentary Group (GP); Socorro Beato Castellano, from the Canarian Nationalist GP; Juan Manuel García Casañas, from the Popular GP; Luis Alberto Campos Jiménez, from the GP Nueva Canarias Canarista Block; Jesús Ramos Chinaa, from the ASG GP, and Raúl Acosta Armas (AHI), who intervened through a video. GP Vox did not participate.
- Interventions and presentations by experts in economics and European cohesion policies, such as María del Pilar Almeida Trujillo, deputy director of European Fund Management of the General Directorate of Planning and Budget of the Government of the Canary Islands; José Miguel González Hernández, economist and consulting director at Corporación 5; Carlos Portugués Carrillo, expert in European affairs; the Minister of Finance and Relations with the European Union of the Government of the Canary Islands, Matilde Asián; the president of the Economic and Social Council of the Canary Islands, José Carlos Francisco; José Luis Rivero Ceballos, professor of Applied Economics at the University of La Laguna (Tenerife); the deputy and president of the European Affairs and Foreign Action Commission of the Parliament of the Canary Islands, Alicia Vanoostende; the MEP of the European People's Party Gabriel Mato; Dunnia Rosa Rodríguez Viera, director of the Canarian Employment Service; Marisol Izquierdo López, director of Innovation, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Gran Canaria), and Enrique Rodríguez de Azero, president of the Canarian Association of Renewable Energies of the Canary Islands.
- Debate on the future of the Canary Islands in the new period of European cohesion.
- Roundtable discussion on priorities for the Canary Islands in European funds.
- Conferences on topics such as the differentiated application of cohesion policy in the Canary Islands as an outermost region; the evolution of GDP in the Canary Islands, Spain and Europe, and an analysis of the EU operational programs and their level of execution.
- Roundtable discussion on the EU cohesion policy in the Canary Islands with the parliamentary groups of the Parliament of the Canary Islands, with the participation of deputies Alicia Vanoostende Simili, of the Canary Socialist Parliamentary Group (GP); José Miguel Barragán Cabrera, from the Canarian Nationalist GP; Carlos Antonio Ester Sánchez, from GP Popular; María Esther González González, from the

GP Nueva Canarias Canarista Block; Jesús Ramos Chinaa, from the ASG GP, and Raúl Acosta Armas (AHI), who intervened via video. GP Vox did not participate.

- The opening and closing of the Conecta Canarias-Europe Conference were presided over by Astrid Pérez Batista, the Chair of the Parliament of the Canary Islands,

All participants and attendees in these sessions were contacted directly by the Parliament of the Canary Islands to meet its proposed objectives, which include:

- Giving a platform to experts in both subjects, various groups, NGOs and migrants who have successfully integrated and pursued their life goals in the Canary Islands to achieve a comprehensive understanding and a global vision of these realities.
- Facilitating discussions, reflections and consensus-building within the Canary Islands on two crucial issues for its future: migration and European cohesion policies.
- Collecting assessments and proposals from the Chamber that will be incorporated into the CoR's strategic political work for the upcoming EU political cycle.
- Presenting a Canarian vision and perspective on these two issues with special attention to the Canary Islands's status as an outermost region and its reality on the southern border of the European Union, the main route of irregular entry for migrants from West Africa.

The Parliament of the Canary Islands made these events accessible to the general public by broadcasting them live and providing recorded versions through its official television channel, website and social media networks. The coverage included daily press releases and audiovisual content for the media, active engagement on social media platforms and the presentation of conclusions to the CoR and CALRE. The *Conecta Canarias-Europe Conference* had a significant media impact during its four-day duration, generating more than 21 700 Google search results and over 27 400 on Microsoft Bing. It also received thousands of views and interactions on social networks such as X, Facebook, Instagram or Flickr.

Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative*

The Parliament of the Canary Islands played a central role in the success of this initiative as the creator, promoter, organizer, host and mediator of the conference. The Parliament also selected approximately 50 guests and speakers. Given its expertise in organizing various public events and its significant media presence, the *Conecta Canary Islands-Europe Conference* generated widespread interest and broad dissemination among the population. The Parliament of the Canary Islands provided essential human, material and audiovisual and graphic resources.

European orientation of the initiative*

The CoR and CALRE requested that the Parliament of the Canary Islands provide its assessment and recommendations regarding the EU's performance during its current mandate. This includes the urgent measures that must be adopted in relation to migration and asylum in the Schengen area and cohesion policies. In these proceedings, Europe has played a pivotal role by inspiring the organization, providing some of the speakers and gathering information for the future implementation of relevant measures.

Documentation

Conclusions:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y9dWisChPVT6a-cSUL0iZJs4NwKebufT/view?usp=share_link

Publications during the sessions on the website of the Parliament of the Canary Islands:

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2918

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2922

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2923

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2925

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2926

https://www.parcn.es/noticias/detalle.py?ID_NOTICIA=2927

Photographs

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAVb2D>

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAVe2d>

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAVsbJ>

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAVC8H>

Streaming

<https://www.parcn.es/video/jornada/41150/8994/>

<https://www.parcn.es/video/jornada/41151/8998/>

<https://www.parcn.es/video/jornada/41152/9007/>

<https://www.parcn.es/video/jornada/41153/>

Reports published by the Parliament of the Canary Islands

<https://fb.watch/nBmmz7wWeN/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmqjTzSDW/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmu8WlNXf/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmx8TXVZS/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmynxDlDj/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmzSZoedV/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmGD2R-ZE/>

<https://fb.watch/nBmTKuXTSX/>

<https://fb.watch/nBm-w8RxZi/>

<https://fb.watch/nBn2wDzgpM/>

RRSS

<https://x.com/parcan/status/1704835521392922636?s=20>

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CxVh6N5I_l4/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

<https://fb.watch/nIPN2Jcaxr/>

https://fb.watch/nIPOhUn_4-/